



I L L I N O I S

---

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

-

## PRODUCTION NOTE

University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign Library  
Large-scale Digitization Project, 2007.



*Bulletin  
of  
the  
Center  
for  
Children's  
Books*

*January 1964 • Vol XVII • No. 5*



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

\* \* \*

BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books. Published by the University of Chicago Press for the University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Acting Supervising Editor; Mrs. Zena Bailey, Editor.

Published monthly except August. Subscription rates: per year, \$4.50; \$3.00 per year each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy, 75¢. Checks should be made payable to the University of Chicago Press. Correspondence regarding the BULLETIN should be addressed to the University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois. All notices of change of address should provide *both* the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

Cover drawing adapted with permission of the Grolier Society from an illustration by Erika Weihs.

Copyright 1964 by the University of Chicago

[PRINTED  
IN U.S.A.]

# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume XVII

January, 1964

Number 5

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

R Aldridge, Josephine Haskell. The Best of Friends; illus. by Betty F. Peterson.  
K-2 Parnassus, 1963. 31p. \$2.50.

A small book with delicate illustrations that are most appropriate for the story, a gentle fantasy about a boy and a squirrel. Tad and the squirrel were friends who admired each other's cosy homes; they decide to exchange dwellings. The old oak tree proved cold and damp, however, so Tad put in a roof and a door . . . he built some furniture . . . he made a fireplace and brought in some winter supplies. Squirrel found Tad's house too big, and the bed too soft, so he brought in some leaves . . . and let the fire go out . . . and hid nuts in the wall against the winter. In the spring the two good friends met again. The ending is inconclusive, but less important than it would be if the plot itself were important; the charm of the book is, however, in the writing style and the mood that it evokes.

M Allan, Mabel Esther. The Sign of the Unicorn; illus. by Shirley Hughes.  
7-9 Criterion Books, 1963. 155p. \$3.50.

As in other Allan books, a story in which an English girl has adventures in another country; here Julia Conway becomes involved in more mystery and melodrama than the author has hitherto permitted her heroine. Julia, unexpectedly alone in Paris, becomes acquainted with a French girl, Annette; it is clear that Annette and her brother are in serious and frightening trouble. Julia herself is followed by a suspicious character; the mystery is solved after a highly dramatic conclusion in which Julia is kidnapped, is rescued by her British suitor, and escapes being run down by the car in which two criminals crash and are killed. The pace is good, the plot construction tight-knit if not credible, and the mood of suspense is well-maintained. The melodramatic plot and some of the coincident episodes within the action weaken the story.

NR Amerman, Lockhart. Guns in the Heather. Harcourt, 1963. 191p. \$3.25.  
7-9

A mystery and adventure story set in Scotland, where Jonathan Flower, son of a secret agent of the United States, is at school. Lured by a false message from his father, Jonathan is kidnapped and plunged into one melodramatic escapade after another. Heavily dependent on coincidence, and with characters that tend to stereotype, the story is not convincing. The author has some nice bits of Scottish humor and of local color, but they are lost in a web of capture, escape, chase, sinister foreigners, and father in disguise.

R Arnold, Pauline. The Automation Age; by Pauline Arnold and Percival White.  
10- Holiday House, 1963. 197p. illus. \$3.95.

A solid and serious appraisal of automation, comprehensive in scope and well organ-



ized. Reviewing mechanical and technological development in the past, the text concentrates on automation today: separate chapters are devoted to automation in the home, farm, office, military establishment, etc. Two chapters discuss the advent and the operation of computers; the book closes with a fairly extensive assessment of automation's effect on society now and in the future. A glossary and an index are appended.

Ad Balkoff-Drowne, Tatiana. Take Wing! by Tatiana Balkoff-Drowne with Helen  
4-5 Meredith; illus. by Helen Meredith. Viking, 1963. 34p. Trade ed. \$2.50;  
Library ed. \$2.62 net.

The story of a family of ducks in the year's cycle between migrations. In a restrained fictional framework, the text describes the building of a nest, the laying and hatching of eggs, and the first venture of the brood of ducklings out of the nest. One of the ducklings is used as a central character and is the only one given a name (O-eee); he is the quickest of the brood, and he learns to fend for himself on land and in the water. With autumn O-eee joins the migrating flock. The book gives information that is accurate, but it is information available elsewhere and it is given in a rather tepid although pleasant fashion. The illustrations are not distinguished but they, too, are pleasant; the format seems inappropriately juvenile for the text.

Ad Berry, Erick. Eating and Cooking around the World; Fingers before Forks.  
6-9 Day, 1963. 96p. illus. \$3.50.

Not a recipe book, but a description of the foods and the cooking, serving, and eating customs of peoples of a dozen countries or regions. The text does not cover all older civilizations, but discusses some which have kept primitive customs or are subject to limitations imposed by climatic or agricultural conditions. The author points out the fact that her descriptions are of ancient customs, some of which are changing, but the book would, on the whole, lead the reader to think of several peoples as more generally primitive than they are today. There is, in most sections of the book, attention given only to rural patterns. Despite the fact that the book is not wide in scope, it gives a good deal of information about some still-primitive customs and some adaptations to particular local needs and their effect on both diets and eating habits. An index is appended.

Ad Bonham, Frank. Honor Bound. T. Y. Crowell, 1963. 243p. \$3.50.  
7-10

Mystery and adventure on the first westward trip of the Oxbow Route stagecoach in 1868. Cullen Cook is a young man who helps his grandfather on a newly-established way station; his artistic talent brings him a job as illustrator for a journalist traveling on the stage, and he becomes involved in a mysterious plot in which several of the travelers are concerned. The mystery is rather elaborately conceived: a young girl is knitting a message into a scarf, Cullen is entrusted with the delivery of two ferrets from President Buchanan to a pro-slavery California senator, a slave-trader kidnaps Cullen, the Apaches attack en route. Cullen's problem is deciding between his patriotic duty and his promise to protect the girl, who is clearly part of the pro-slavery contingent. The story has pace and momentum, the characters are vivid and the setting dramatic; the book would be strengthened were there fewer characters and fewer incidents.

R Branley, Franklyn Mansfield. Snow Is Falling; illus. by Helen Stone. T. Y.  
1-2 Crowell, 1963. 40p. (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Books.) Trade ed. \$2.50;  
Library ed. \$2.35 net.

Attractively illustrated, a good science book for beginning independent readers. The text describes briefly what makes snow, what snowflakes are like, and some of the ways in which snow may benefit or may harm living things. A simple and useful in-

roduction to the topics of weather or seasons.

M Braumann, Franz. Malik and Amina; tr. by Stella Humphries; illus. by Victor 6-8 G. Ambrus. Bobbs-Merrill, 1963. 224p. \$3.75.

First published in Germany in 1958 under the title Malik and Adidje, the story of two children whose family had made the pilgrimage to Mecca. Malik was fourteen and his sister twelve; caught in a rioting crowd, they were left behind when their parents departed for the long journey back to Chinese Turkistan. Their trek home was perilous and dramatic: captured by a criminal band, they were sold as slaves, freed and set on a boat but refused landing privilege on the Persian coast. After a secret landing and a long tramp with a Persian peddler, the children—nearing home—went to the rescue of a traveler lost in the snow: it was their father, who had set out to find them. Many of the episodes are exciting, and the background is of unusual interest, but the story seems too long and often melodramatic.

Ad Browning, Norma Lee. Joe Maddy of Interlochen. Regnery, 1963. 297p. illus. 8- \$4.95.

A long and detailed account of Mr. Maddy's life and work: his boyhood and musical training, his career as a writer, teacher, and performer of music—and especially his establishment and operation of the famous summer music camp. Out of the National Music Camp at Interlochen grew international fame for his camp and his students, and eventually the establishment of an accredited music school. The book will have only moderate appeal to the reader who is not interested in music; it is weakened by the popularized style of writing.

M Cameron, Eleanor. The Beast with the Magical Horn; illus. by Beth and Joe 5-6 Krush. Little, 1963. 74p. \$3.75.

In fairy tale style, the story of Alison, the poor and beautiful mountain girl who won the heart of a Prince. Alison saved the life of a unicorn and was rescued from the charging hunders by Prince Basil; they fell in love. All the court were captivated by Alison save the Queen, the wicked, jealous aunt of Basil. She set Alison a series of impossible tasks, achieved with the aid of the unicorn; eventually the cruel and frustrated woman vanished in a flash of green light. Authentic style for the genre, but slow-moving; the story lacks both the lightness and the pace that are the best features of the author's previous books.

M Carr, Harriett H. Rod's Girl. Hastings House, 1963. 190p. illus. \$3.50. 7-9

Marge and her older sister are in high school, and the younger girl feels that she cannot measure up to the attractive and popular Janey. Marge becomes involved in civic affairs and, through that, more involved in school affairs. Although she fears that Rod is influenced in his behavior by his delinquent pal, Jerry, she tries to see the good in both boys; eventually she helps both boys achieve more stability and finds that she has also helped herself. Characterization is adequate and Marge's motivation is worthy, but the story is bogged down by a mass of sub-plot and incident.

Ad Carton, Lonnie C. Daddies; illus. by Leslie Jacobs. Random House, 1963. 4-6 40p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.89 net. yrs.

A companion book to Mommies, with no plot but with a four-line rhyme on each page commenting on some aspect of the genus daddy. Many of the rhymes have a light humor, some verge on cuteness; they are occasionally obvious, usually psychologically sound. Samples: "Daddies sometimes sit and read / A newspaper or book; So if you cannot see their heads, You know just where to look!" or, "Daddies know you're big enough / And brave enough to do / Lots of things that Mommies think / Are much too hard for you."

Ad Chauncy, Nan. The Roaring 40; illus. by Annette Macarthur-Onslow. Watts, 6-8 1963. 161p. \$2.95.

A sequel to Tiger in the Bush and Devil's Hill. Here Badge Lorennys goes prospecting with his father and another man in a desolate part of the Tasmanian coast. They find a wild boy who slowly and suspiciously responds to Badge's overtures of friendship; the boy, Ned, goes home with the Lorennys. He turns out to be the shipwrecked and long-lost nephew of a neighbor who has been living as a hermit; he has been the victim of three unscrupulous men. The plot development is not believable, but the author has a distinctive individual style and the setting is both exotic and convincing.

Ad Cole, Stephen. Pitcher and I. Ariel, 1963. 156p. \$2.95.  
6-9

A first person story about a boarding school for boys; Robby describes one year of school, with his new roommate as the focus of the narrative. Pitcher is awkward, honest, and shy: the butt of practical jokes and of rough humor, Pitcher arouses Robby's protective instincts. By the time the year is over, Robby has real affection and respect for Pitcher. The writing is fairly convincing as the product of a youngster: the touches of naiveté and of sentimentality are just a bit overdone. Characterization is adequate, but the characters tend to be boarding-school stereotypes. The events are realistic, the humor is light and pleasant.

M Dahl, Marta. Jungle Family; tr. by Marianne Turner; illus. by Olle Snismark. 7-9 Roy, 1963. 157p. \$2.95.

First published in Sweden in 1960 under the title Hos Indianer; the author describes, in third person, a trip she took with her two small sons. The three visit Choco Indians in the Colombian forest, people known to the author because of a previous visit she had made with her husband, an explorer. The narrative is laboriously informational. Much of the material is available in reference books; the small value of the volume is in the rapport felt by the author for the forest people, a feeling communicated in part by bits of folk-lore, by interpolated legends told by Chocos, and by the author's anecdotes about past experiences.

R Davis, Russell G. Land in the Sun; The Story of West Africa; by Russell Davis 6-9 and Brent Ashabanner; illus. by Robert William Hinds. Little, 1963. 92p. \$4.50.

An unusually good survey of the nations of West Africa, lucidly written, vividly detailed, and handsomely illustrated. The authors combine restraint of style with a sympathetic attitude to excellent effect; they discuss both the broad flow of events and the colorful detail of a single scene with the acuteness of personal observation. The book is a good supplement to the more usual descriptions of one particular country of West Africa.

Ad Emberley, Barbara. The Story of Paul Bunyan; woodcuts by Ed Emberley. 3-4 Prentice-Hall, 1963. 28p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.13 net.

A compilation of some of the anecdotes that are contained in the Bunyan legendry. The woodcuts that illustrate the book are effective and lively, although some of the pages seem over-filled with detail. The style of writing is good, occasionally achieving the traditional tall-tale flavor, but occasionally, also, dropping into a flat, prosaic phrase or sentence. While the illustrations are not appropriate for younger children, the text may be so used.

R Embry, Margaret Jacob. Mr. Blue; pictures by Brinton Turkle. Holiday House, 2-3 1963. 72p. \$2.75.

The story of a stray cat that is adopted by a third grade class. The cross-eyed bluish cat that was brought in out of the rain was at times a pleasure and at times a nuisance;



when he scratched and bit the music teacher, Mr. Blue was put in quarantine for a week; he was welcomed back even more warmly when his startled yelp gave warning that prevented a serious accident. The story line is a bit fragile, and the cat—whose behavior is always feline—is given semi-speech in phoneticized meows: "Nwhy? Nwell? . . . Nyout!" The children, their conversation, and the teacher-class relationship are quite delightfully portrayed: warm, natural, lightly humorous.

NR Fisher, David. The Criminal Career of Vinegar Tom; written and drawn by K-2 David Fisher. Abelard-Schuman, 1963. 40p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

A read-aloud picture book about a thieving cat, with cartoon-style illustrations. Vinegar Tom lived placidly in Mr. Shakespeare's bookstore, but by night he prowled about stealing food: drinking (through a straw) the milk left by the milkman, snatching the liver meant for a neighbor's tea, etc. Apprehended by the police, the cat was saved by Mr. Shakespeare; scolded, Vinegar Tom repented and reformed. He became a good mouser, so good that the neighbors borrowed and pampered him; in the end, Vinegar Tom had cream and liver AND community approbation. Mediocre illustrations in a book with a slight, over-extended plot; rather plodding style and contrived humor, especially in the rather frequent adult allusions—in particular to book titles.

R Flory, Jane. One Hundred and Eight Bells. Houghton, 1963. 219p. illus. 4-6 \$3.25.

A good family story of present-day Japan; the protagonist is twelve-year-old Setsuko who lives in a small house in Tokyo with her parents, older brother, and a young widowed aunt. Setsuko's problem is forgetfulness. A budding artist, she loses track of time when she paints, and—to her mother's dismay—neglects her household chores. The 108 bells of the title are used in the closing episode of the book, when Setsuko vows at the New Year to change for the better. Against this background, the small realistic events of family life occur: a commission for father, a scholarship for brother, a trip for Setsuko, a love affair for Aunt Toshiko. The characters are real and relationships are excellent; the author depicts convincingly the conflicts between old customs and new as they are felt by the urban Japanese.

M Friedman, Rose. Paddy McGuire and the Patriotic Squirrel; illus. by Gloria 3-4 Kamen. Abingdon, 1963. 63p. \$2.25.

Paddy's animals had caused so much upset in his aunt's gift shop that they had all been boarded out; he decided to make an outdoor nest for the almost-tame squirrel in their yard. The squirrel got into some paint-pots and then into a window display. So many people ordered copies of the red, white, and blue squirrel that Aunt Emma's lagging trade picked up. People wanted their own pets copied, and even Paddy's pet dog, rabbit, and cat were brought back. The story has several extraneous elements for the slight framework of the plot; it is dependent in several instances on coincidence and has little value except that Paddy is kind to animals, takes good care of his pets, and is a cooperative youngster.

M Friedrich, Priscilla. The April Umbrella; by Priscilla and Otto Friedrich; K-2 illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, 1963. 28p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

A read-aloud picture book with illustrations that have vivacity but are overly busy and often scratchy in technique. The text is slight and not highly original: the fanciful story of a child who finds a magic object—here, the umbrella—on which he may wish for anything in the world; he overdoes it and wishes that all his newly-acquired worldly goods would disappear. He keeps only the dog, the first thing for which he wished. The magic umbrella sails into the sky, to arrive at another house where, in some other April, another child might find it. There seems no reason for the dog to

say, occasionally, "Woof, woof." since he speaks fluent English the rest of the time. The ending of the story is quite pleasant, but the theme is rather trite and the style of writing is plodding.

R Godden, Rumer. Little Plum; with drawings by Jean Primrose. Viking, 1963. 3-6 98p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.19 net.

A sequel to Miss Happiness and Miss Flower and quite as charming; here the author uses a situation that promises patterned treatment but surprises the reader with an imaginative variant. Into the enormous house next door moves a poor little rich girl. Gem has a father often away from home, a hospitalized mother, and a tyrant aunt. Overprotected and lonely, Gem spends her time taking private lessons. When Belinda makes overtures to Gem, she is rejected; an impulsive tomboy, Belinda works up a cold war with Gem into a fistfight. Hostilities end when Miss Happiness and Miss Flower invite Gem's doll, Little Plum, to a party. The end of the story is the one part that is patterned; Gem's mother returns and cross Aunt Agnes departs, Gem and Belinda become bosom friends and attend school (and everything else) together. The ending is saved from being maudlin because it is described with lightness and brevity; the style of writing is distinctive, with a deft mingling of realistic (and often recalcitrant) children behaving and talking naturally and of matter-of-fact conversations between Miss Happiness and Miss Flower as they comment on the fate of their neighbor, Little Plum.

M Gramatky, Hardie. Nikos and the Sea God; written and illus. by Hardie K-3 Gramatky. Putnam, 1963. 59p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net. Nikos lives with his aunt on a small Greek island, and the boy is fascinated by the tales Aunt Mara tells of the old Greek gods. Especially when he visits the local museum, Nikos is aware of the importance of the sea god, Poseidon. He catches no fish, but one day Nikos hauls up an amphora picturing Poseidon and it is considered a Sign. When a storm comes up and Aunt Mara is injured, nobody will risk the angry sea; Nikos, feeling that he has the protection of the sea god, sails out to a big boat to get the ship's doctor. The doctor comes, Aunt Mara is cared for, and after that visitors come to the hitherto isolated island every day to hear Aunt Mara's stories. The device of introducing mythology through Nikos' interest is good, but the story falls flat at the ending: the accident seems contrived, the incident of the amphora leads nowhere, and the fact that the island has no doctor, no means of communication, and no adult who will dare the sail to the ship seems improbable. The illustrations are delightful, a few being quite lovely. The writing style is quite good, but the story is an amalgam of mythology, realistic fiction, and fantasy with resultant detriment to all these elements.

R Hámori, László. Flight to the Promised Land; tr. from the Swedish by Anna-7-9 belle MacMillan; illus. by Mel Silverman. Harcourt, 1963. 189p. \$3.25. First published in Sweden in 1961 under the title Schalom Kommer Till Israel, an unusual story based on a real experience. Schalom was twelve in 1948, when his family joined the hegira from the small, backward country of Yemen to the new land of Israel. Cut off from the world, the Yemenite Jews were centuries behind the European Jewish settlers; Schalom didn't even know there were blond Jews, he had never seen a bed, a radio, a truck, a fan. He was quick to adjust to life on a kibbutz, however, and even came to accept the dress and behavior so different from his own naive people and from his rigid orthodoxy. A convincing story; good background, good characterization, and a lively dénouement in which four youngsters rescue their teacher in a night visit to the Arab village in which he is being held a captive.

M Hark, Mildred. Mary Lou and Johnny; An Adventure in Seeing; by Mildred Hark 5-6 and Noel McQueen; pictures by Taylor Oughton. Watts, 1963. 228p. \$2.95.

Mary Lou's first friend in the new neighborhood is Johnny, who is blind; Johnny, a stable and courageous youngster, soon shows Mary Lou how independent a blind person can be. Since their school has special classes for the blind, Mary Lou volunteers to be a Braille attendant, but she finds that she is too impetuous and too protective. Both children meet an elderly man who has just lost his sight; in helping Mr. Fiorelli adjust to his new condition, Mary Lou solves some of her own problems. A worthy but dull and heavily purposive book; much of the information about techniques for achieving self-reliance are interesting, but the story is heavily laden with such information. The secondary plot—Mr. Fiorelli and his acquisition of a guide dog—loses impact because it is introduced after there has already been much material about blindness. The writing has a matter-of-fact attitude and a frankness that are excellent, but the writing style is quite weak.

Ad Hayes, Florence (Sooy). The Boy in the 49th Seat; illus. by Sanae Yamazaki.  
3-4 Random House, 1963. 57p. (Easy To Read Books.) \$1.95.

Taro had just moved from a small town to Tokyo; all the schools were crowded, so the principal of father's old school had agreed to make room for Taro by putting in an extra seat. Taro found that the boys were not very friendly—nobody asked him to play ball, nobody talked to him at lunchtime, and they thought he talked oddly, whereas Taro knew it was they that talked oddly. When Taro's uncle came from America and showed the boy tricks, Taro brought Uncle Kozo to school for activities time; the class enjoyed the tricks and the boys for the first time made friendly overtures. The Japanese background has some interest, but has little to do with the story, which is based on a universal situation: the newcomer who craves acceptance. The manner in which Taro gets acceptance is not unrealistic, but it reflects no particular credit on Taro (who takes no initiative) or on his classmates (who are impressed by an adult outsider) or on the adults (who make little effort to see that the newcomer is made welcome).

R Hoff, Syd. Grizzwold; story and pictures by Syd Hoff. Harper, 1963. 64p.  
1 (I Can Read Books.) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A delightful book for the beginning independent reader, the humor augmented by drawings of the large and placid bear, Grizzwold. Too large to get into caves, Grizzwold was driven from his forest home by the depredations of lumbermen. Hopefully he went hunting a forest. The mountain goat said, "You won't find one up here." The prairie wolf said, "You won't find one here." The desert lizard said, "Boy, are you lost!" The further adventures of Grizzwold and his eventual success are in the same light, bland vein.

R Hofsinde, Robert. Indian Fishing and Camping; written and illus. by Robert  
4-6 Hofsinde. Morrow, 1963. 92p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.78 net.

A useful and simply written book that describes many of the practices and pieces of equipment used by various Indian tribes. The author gives explicit and fairly easy instructions for making some of the fishing tools used by Indians. Explanations are also given for various methods of cooking fish; the last few pages have drawings of about twenty common varieties of fish.

Ad Holland, Marion. Teddy's Camp-Out; written and illus. by Marion Holland.  
3-4 Knopf, 1963. 60p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.69 net.

Teddy was supposed to stay with Joe while his parents were away, but Joe's brother was put in quarantine, so the two broke into Teddy's empty house. His mother had left it so tidy they were uncomfortable, so they decided to go camping. Camping turned out to have its disadvantages, so back they came—and found traces of a burglar. The burglar turned out to be Joe's father, who had come looking for them, so he sent away the police who had been called by the boys. Not impossible, but a slight story line with

improbable coincidences that don't quite substitute for plot development. The writing style has simplicity and a light touch; the ending is satisfying; Joe's father doesn't like housekeeping any more than the boys do, and he decides they'll all three go camping.

R Holman, Felice. Elisabeth, the Bird Watcher; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Mac-K-3 millan, 1963. 44p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

Delightfully illustrated, the story of a small girl whose bird-feeder was taken over by a squirrel. Elisabeth and her father had enjoyed building the bird-feeder and watching the birds come to their window; when the squirrel took over, he outwitted every attempt to foil his marauding. Finally Elisabeth's father hung a feeder where the squirrel couldn't reach it, and put the old feeder on the ground for the squirrel. The descriptions of birds are nicely simple, the style of writing is light, humorous, and realistic.

Ad Holt, Margaret. David McCheever's 29 Dogs; illus. by Walter Lorraine. K-2 Houghton, 1963. 48p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.90 net.

David McCheever had just moved to a new town and didn't know anyone. His mother sent him to buy groceries, the sack broke, and several dogs were attracted by the meat that fell out of the sack. As David went along, more dogs joined; assuming that it was a parade, people joined. Including the highschool band. By the time David got home, the canine convoy had developed into a full-scale parade, with police escort, marching band, and newspaper publicity. Slight theme but pleasant treatment; a book with lively illustrations written with bland humor and a light, bland style.

R Hunt, Mabel Leigh. Beggar's Daughter. Lippincott, 1963. 192p. \$3.75. 7-10

A story of the early days of the Quaker movement in England, the protagonist being the beautiful young girl who was the foster daughter of a midland Quaker family. The illegitimate child of a servant, Mary had been abandoned by her mother; gay and loving, the child did not realize the extent of her own religious conviction until, at the age of sixteen, she went before the King to plead for release of her imprisoned foster family. The story line is good, the background is interesting, and the characters are convincing although Mary herself seems a bit overdrawn; in both descriptive and conversational passages the writing seems, occasionally, ornate.

R Jennings, Gary. The Movie Book; illus. with photographs. Dial, 1963. 227p. 7- \$3.95.

A book that is as delightfully written as it is informative, easy and conversational in style, and with a tone of amused affection. The material is nicely organized: chapters on early motion picture developments, the talkies, musicals, westerns, the star system, comedians, colossal epics, cartoons, newsreels, horror films, etc. The text ends with an entertaining chapter that describes the making of a movie by a group of adolescents: "I Was a Teen-Age Mummy," a satire on Hollywood horror films. Several chapters are devoted to descriptions of the work of those behind the movie, from the director to the slate boy, and to discussions of technical aspects of filming. An extensive index is appended.

R Jewett, Sarah Orne. A White Heron: A Story of Maine; illus. by Barbara Cooney. 5-7 T. Y. Crowell, 1963. 35p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.65 net.

A book that appeared first as a short story in The Country of the Pointed Firs and Other Stories, first published in a collection. The illustrations are lovely in detail and perfect in their reflection of the mood of the story. Sylvy, nine, lives alone with her grandmother on an isolated Maine coastal farm; a young man comes her way while hunting, and the lonely child is enchanted by her new acquaintance. The man is

an ardent ornithologist, and he is sure Sylvy can help him find the rare white heron. Anxious to help the young man, Sylvy slips out at dawn and climbs a high pine tree; she sees the beautiful white heron sailing majestically toward its hidden nest, and is delighted. But when the time comes, Sylvy does not speak . . . she cannot betray the beautiful bird. A delicate and moving story that will probably be best appreciated by the more sensitive reader.

Ad Klein, Leonore. Runaway John; illus. by Sunny B. Warner. Knopf, 1963. 29p.  
K-2 Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.97 net.

A quiet read-aloud story in which a small boy decides, on a gray and obviously boring day, to run away. John collects food . . . pillow and blanket . . . his dog, of course; he assembles a carton of toys and invites a friend. By the time the gray day has produced rain, John's mother and his friend have both agreed that they'll accept his invitation some other day, since there is no way for John's father to accompany them at the moment. Slight but pleasant.

R La Fontaine, Jean de. The Lion and the Rat; illus. by Brian Wildsmith. Watts,  
K-2 1963. 29p. \$3.95.

The familiar fable is retold by Mr. Wildsmith in a simplified version that is adequate. The illustrations are a joy. They glow with vivid color and movement; both color and design are used with imagination. It seems unfortunate the rat is used rather than the more usual mouse, since the mouse—smaller and more timid than the rat—makes a better contrast to the lion. Not a distinguished retelling, but a book well worth having for the beauty of the drawings.

R Life Magazine. The Fishes; by F. D. Ommanney and the editors of Life. Time,  
7- 1963. 193p. illus. \$2.95.

A most impressive addition to the series of books in the natural sciences; the drawings are good, the photographs—especially those in color—are superb, all of the illustrative material being fully captioned. The text is solid and serious, but the book will be useful visually to many children too young to be at ease with the style and the vocabulary. Among the topics discussed are physiology and morphology, habits and habitat, reproduction and adaptation, patterns of hunting and spawning, migratory patterns, and the fishing industry around the world. Appended are an extensive relative index, a divided bibliography, and a list of fish names, alphabetized by common name, with the scientific name following.

Ad Life Magazine. Scandinavia; by Hammond Innes and the editors of Life. Time,  
8- 1963. 160p. illus. \$2.95.

Handsomely illustrated, a survey of the Scandinavian countries; written at a fairly mature level and in clear style, although the organization of material is not as careful as it is in other books in the series. Printed in double columns of rather small print, and with an occasional boxed insert of information in very small print—a somewhat obtrusive device. After a general discussion of the Scandinavian scene today, the text traces the history of the three countries, then examines each separately. Succeeding chapters describe particular cultural aspects, such as "Culture in a Cold Climate" or "Personalities of Peace." Endpapers give political and relief maps; an index is appended, as are a list of important dates, a list of important people, and a list of suggestions for further reading, divided by chapters.

NR Livant, Rose A. A Song for Pamela. Chilton, 1963. 141p. \$3.50.  
7-9

Pam's parents take a job abroad when their Florida inn burns; Pam is sent north to a choir school, although she plans to be a popular singer. In her year at Chisholm Choir College, Pamela adjusts slowly to a new set of mores; she becomes interested in cho-

ral singing and feels a growing respect for the more sedate and organized pattern of living she must share. She feels uncomfortable, at first, with a Negro student, but finds Genny so kind and so sensitive that they become good friends. The book has rather trite plot and situations, but has some good values; most of the characters are superficially developed. A patterned story, mitigated by the positive attitude Pam acquires toward Genny and toward her family responsibilities, but weakened by the way these attitudes are acquired.

M McCrea, James. The King's Procession; by James and Ruth McCrea. Athen-K-2 eum, 1963. 28p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

A read-aloud story about a boy and a donkey, set in medieval times to judge by the illustrations. Riding for the first time in the King's Procession, Pipin the stableboy was jeered at by the crowd because he was riding on a scrawny donkey. Hearing, the King proclaimed that the boy was to be given a white pony; Pipin, however, decided that he would rather keep his old friend, the donkey. A slight and rather mechanical text that doesn't quite hang together and has a weak ending; the boy's love for his animal is a positive value, but there seems some contrivance in the necessity for his having to choose one beast or the other.

Ad McNamee, James. My Uncle Joe; illus. by Lewis Parker. Viking, 1963. 63p. 5-7 \$2.95.

In rambling, conversational style, a first-person account of a trip taken by a boy of twelve; set in Canada in the 1880's. The boy and his uncle, a man equal to any situation, have a series of encounters with deserters, Indians, and petty criminals. The writing verges on tall-tale, with elements of frontier humor, exaggeration, and flavorful dialect; the style is just a bit self-conscious: "My uncle took the six shooter he carried under his jacket and slipped it into his half-boot. Well, well, he said, and he spoke as quietly as if we were in the parlour at home, Well, well, this is very interesting. Here we are out on a prairie with four horses, and there they are, four men out on the prairie with no horses. Everybody knows, boy, that a man on a prairie has to have a horse. This is very interesting."

NR Malkus, Alida Sims. Through the Wall; A Boy's Struggle for Freedom. 7-8 Grosset, 1962. 178p. \$2.95.

Hansi, a boy of twelve, whose father has just been taken by the Russian police and whose mother has then died, escapes from East Berlin to West Berlin. He is taken in as a foster child, escapes being kidnapped; they all go to America, where Hansi learns even more about the free world and about democracy. An inordinate amount of the conversation in the book sounds like a political tract. The story line goes on being melodramatic even after Hansi escapes from East Berlin, which is accomplished by the fourth chapter. The book has such a plethora of turgid incident that it quickly loses momentum.

Ad Massie, Diane Redfield. The Baby Beebe Bird; story and pictures by Diane 3-5 Redfield Massie. Harper, 1963. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 yrs. net.

A read-aloud book about the animals in a zoo. Kept awake all night by the chirping of a small bird, the animals joined together the next day to make the same "beebob-bobbee . . . etc." sound and they, in turn, kept the bird awake throughout the day. The baby beebob bird learned that way that the night was for sleeping. Slight, pleasantly light in style and humor.

M Matsutani, Miyoko. The Fox Wedding; tr. by Masako Matsuno; illus. by Yasuo K-2 Segawa. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1963. 17p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.64 net.



A read-aloud picture book based on the legend that when the sun shines during rain, a fox wedding is taking place. The lovely illustrations are in delicate pastels, interesting in technique and slightly Oriental in feeling. The farmer who had adopted and raised a baby fox, Osato, realizes, after his beloved pet disappears, that there has been a fox wedding; he has seen the sun shining while it rained and he has found on his doorstep a food package. The giver, Ojiisan says, "'was your mother who came to thank me for bringing you up. I see, I see.'" Ojiisan sighed, thinking of Osato, and prayed happiness for her." The retelling is slight in treatment and weak in the style of writing, with a rather limp ending.

Ad Miles, Miska. See A White Horse; illus. by Wesley Dennis. Little, 1963. 39p. 3-4 Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.79 net.

Henry, whose dog had died, made a wish on a white horse; he wished he could have a dog like the one following the horse and he later realized that what he really wished for was that very dog. Nobody owned the big brown dog, and Henry traced him and trailed him until at last boy and dog were together. A slight story, pleasant but slow-moving.

R Neville, Emily. It's Like This, Cat; pictures by Emil Weiss. Harper, 1963. 6-9 180p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Written in first person—and convincingly—the story of a boy growing up in the Gramercy Park neighborhood of New York. Dave is an only child of fourteen; with his father, Dave feels that there is always the possibility of mild or severe explosion; with his mother he keeps the peace, knowing that tension brings on her asthma. A cat named Cat is Dave's only pet, and Cat is instrumental in bringing Dave two new friends. One is an older boy who is helped by Dave's father; Dave realizes that his Pop is a pretty good guy compared to the other boy's. His other friend is Mary. Mary is the first girl with whom Dave feels comfortable; he even enjoys paying her fare. The style of writing is lightly humorous, easy, and always consistent with Dave's age and his personality. The characterizations are very good, with a few delicious sketches on the side, such as the depiction of Mary's mother: the Compleat Intellectual, New York style.

R Noble, Iris. Physician to the Children: Dr. Bela Schick. Messner, 1963. 189p. 7-10 \$3.25.

A good biography of the famous pediatrician who devised the Schick test for diphtheria and who did pioneer work in establishing pediatrics as a separate medical field. Coming from a humble Austrian Jewish family, Bela Schick for most of his life fought poverty and prejudice as well as professional battles. The writing style is good; the author's attitude is just slightly adulatory, but not obtrusively so. The biographee emerges as a warm character, not unlike Einstein: great in achievements about which he has complete and genuine modesty—a shabby, dignified, shy and lovable human being. An index is appended.

R North, Sterling. Rascal; A Memoir of a Better Era; illus. by John Schoenherr. 7-Dutton, 1963. 189p. \$3.95.

The author reminisces about the engaging raccoon that was his pet and companion for one year. All of the descriptions of, and anecdotes about Rascal are warm and entertaining, but it is the background situation that gives the book depth. Living alone with his permissive and absent-minded widowed father, eleven-year-old Sterling had a freedom, both in the home and out, that permitted him to roam the Wisconsin countryside half a century ago. A gentle and slow-moving book, written with grace and humor; an especial delight for the reader who enjoys outdoor life or animals.

R Parish, Peggy. Amelia Bedelia; pictures by Fritz Siebel. Harper, 1963. 32p. K-2 Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

A read-aloud book about a cheerful and literal-minded servant; on her first day of work Amelia Bedelia was left a list of instructions. "Dress the chicken" . . . she dressed it as a boy. "Draw the drapes" . . . Amelia Bedelia sat down and drew a picture of the drapes. The lively illustrations show cheerful and always-hatted Amelia Bedelia at her chores; the text will enthrall the child who enjoys the particular humor of literal interpretation.

R Peare, Catherine Owens. The Woodrow Wilson Story; An Idealist in Politics. 7-10 T. Y. Crowell, 1963. 277p. \$4.50.

A dignified and objective biography of Wilson, written with a nice balance of attention to the various periods of his life: a brief survey of his family background and his childhood, a resume of his activities and attitudes during his college years, and more extensive examination of his academic service and his political career. The author writes of Wilson with respect and sympathy, but writes with judicious appraisal rather than with adulation. An extensive bibliography and index are appended.

R Pedersen, Elsa. Cook Inlet Decision; woodcut decorations by Walter Ferro. 7-9 Atheneum, 1963. 203p. \$3.50.

Orphaned Gregor Dennis decided to leave school two weeks before the end of his junior year; he had had more schooling than most of the native Alaskan boys, and he wanted to be a fisherman. Salmon-fishing in the Alaskan waters was lucrative, but Gregor had heavy initial expenses and also had to cope with the vengeful bully, Curly. His difficulties eventually led Gregor to decide that his friend Rosie was right: he needed more education. A good story for boys, rather heavy with details of boat lore and commercial fishing, but with good pace and with several dramatic incidents.

Ad Roedelberger, Franz A. The Wonders of Wildlife; Nature Observed in 280 Pictures; by Franz A. Roedelberger and Vera I. Groschoff; tr. by Mary Phillips and Peter Whitehead. Viking, 1963. 232p. \$8.50.

A compilation of photographs of wild life, chiefly European, with descriptive text that takes about a fourth of the page space, some pages being devoted to illustration. The photographs are both black and white and color and they are absolutely superb. The text is variable: sometimes it refers specifically to the species pictured, at other times the description is general, with a passing reference to the species. The book has no table of contents, no index, and random organization, so that its use will be chiefly for browsing. The text is in very small print, unfortunately; it is generally well-written, translated from a bi-lingual Swiss edition. The photographs will be enjoyed by children too young to read the text.

Ad Rossner, Judith. What Kind of Feet Does a Bear Have? with illus. by Irwin 5-7 Rosenhouse. Bobbs-Merrill, 1963. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. yrs. \$2.28 net.

A small book that plays with words and phrases, illustrated by scraggly but lively drawings. Some of the ideas are puns: "If I have bare feet, what kind of feet does a bear have? Boy feet? Girl feet?" Other questions are based on reversal: "If I act like a clown, how does a clown act? Like a seal? Or an elephant? Or my teacher in school?" Very light stuff, but it is the sort of nonsense children enjoy and the book may well stimulate a spate of suggestions.

Ad Schlein, Miriam. The Snake in the Carpool; illus. by N. M. Bodecker. Abelard- 2-3 Schuman, 1963. 60p. Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.52 net.

A rather slight story, lightly humorous, realistic, and pleasantly illustrated. The snake that Sally took to school escaped while she was rising in the carpool car. It got into a package and was later picked up and delivered to a boy; his aunt was giving him (she thought) pajamas and was surprised at Homer's enthusiastic reception of "the best

present I ever had." Eventually he found that Aunt Gladys hadn't really given him a snake, and that it had belonged to Sally. So they became partners. A nice story, just the right length and tempo for the primary reader, but with a very weak ending.

M Shields, Rita. Mary Kate; illus. by Tom O'Sullivan. McKay, 1963. 120p.  
4-5 \$3.25.

Mary Kate, a foundling, has been raised in a Catholic orphanage; a docile and loving child, she yearns for adoptive parents but she wants to be loved and needed by anyone. Therefore when the orphanage acquires a motherless baby boy, Mary Kate takes Robbie as her very own. When Robbie's soldier father returns, Mary Kate faces the misery of losing her boy; in a rather pat and very sentimental ending, she meets Robbie's father, spends Christmas at the home of his bride-to-be, and is adopted by them after the honeymoon. Good style, weak plot, and very little characterization in the book.

R Silverstein, Shel. Uncle Shelby's Story of Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back.  
4-5 Harper, 1963. 110p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

Daft, that's what. A nonsense story about utter success, illustrated by drawings that have a Thurber quality. Lafcadio was a young lion who had learned to shoot a gun; brought to New York by an enterprising circus man, Lafcadio took to the amenities of civilization and more than kindly to fame and adulation. Then he became bored, so he went to Africa to hunt; accosted by some other lions, Lafcadio realized that he was not fully happy in the role of a lion nor content with acting like a human being—so he walked away, down to the valley, and he hasn't been heard of since. Not even a postcard. A most amusing book, written in an easy, mildly mad style: "The very next morning there was a great big parade for Lafcadio the Great all the way from the hotel to the circus tent and the band was playing and the sun was shining and Lafcadio the Great was riding in a big golden convertible and the band was playing Umpa Umpa Umpa and the people were cheering 'Hurrah, Hurrah!' and 'Yea, hey, hurray' and 'Whoopie' and 'Wow' and 'Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate? Lafcadio, Lafcadio, Lafcadio the Great, yea!'"

R Slobodkin, Louis. Luigi and the Long-Nosed Soldier. Macmillan, 1963. 40p.  
K-3 illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.18 net.

Certainly one of the best books from the prolific Mr. Slobodkin. A stage-comic villain is bested by a type-cast lovable old professor in a light-hearted read-aloud spoof of smugglers and border-guards that begs for dramatization. Luigi went by bus every Saturday across the border to Switzerland; after his violin lesson he returned with violin case and empty lunch box, to Italy. A new and irritating soldier on inspection detail poked into Luigi's packages every week to the detriment of Luigi's dessert. Since the professor shared the dessert, he was also annoyed; he rigged a series of trap-packages, the last of which was a mousetrap that caught the soldier's prying nose. The other passengers laughed so hard that two of them, popping their coat buttons, let fall a hoard of smuggled watches; these two the soldier had never searched. After that the soldier could be seen washing the Captain's windows, but never on border duty; Luigi and the Professor thenceforward enjoyed their unravaged cakes. Good style, good humor, delicious illustrations.

Ad Slobodkin, Louis. Moon Blossom & the Golden Penny. Vanguard, 1963. 59p.  
K-2 illus. \$3.25.

A read-aloud book, very pleasantly illustrated, about a poor family in Hong Kong. Moon Blossom and her two brothers helped their widowed mother all they could; Moon Blossom ran errands with the baby strapped to her back so that Mother would be free to ferry their sampan. One day a cross old woman gave Moon Blossom a strange coin; all the merchants said it was gold, and they heaped goods (on credit) on the children.

The family acquired a newer, bigger sampan; they paid all the merchants . . . and always Moon Blossom looked for the old woman who had, the child was sure, given the gold coin by mistake. The story ends with a surprise, but the message is the same; the good fortune came partly because the probity of the family was known and a bit because "them as has, gits." The plot is mildly but not objectionably contrived, the contrivance being mitigated by a light touch.

- R Spenser, Edmund. Saint George and the Dragon; being the Legend of the Red Cross Knight from The Faerie Queene; ad. by Sandol Stoddard Warburg; illus. by Pauline Baynes. Houghton, 1963. 134p. \$4.50.

A simplified retelling of the first book of The Faerie Queen; the format is handsome, the illustrations are dignified, attractive, and appropriate. The adapter of the poetry notes that she has eliminated the archaic Spenserian so that children may understand and enjoy the poetry that would otherwise be incomprehensible. The modernized spellings are used throughout, but the original form is approached deliberately through the progression of text, so that the captivated audience may be drawn to fuller appreciation of Spenser's writing.

- R Steele, William Owen. The Year of the Bloody Sevens; illus. by Charles Beck. 5-7 Harcourt, 1963. 187p. \$3.25.

In the year 1777 there were many Indian massacres, and it was only by chance that Kelsey Bond avoided an Indian party. Kelsey, travelling with two woodsmen to join his father in Kentucky, was spared, but was miserably convinced that he had been cowardly. Kelsey, with many dangerous adventures, reached the fort in Kentucky by himself; his father finally convinced the boy that discretion was indeed the better part of valor. A good pioneer and adventure story, with flavorful dialect and delightful touches of humor.

- M Taylor, Sydney. Now That You Are 8; pictures by Ingrid Fetz. Association 2-3 Press, 1963. 56p. \$1.50.

One in the series of graded books designed to reflect at the child's level the developmental values and the problems that are usual in each year of his first decade. Here the episodic chapters describe some incidents in the lives of Jane and Johnny; each anecdote points up a particular problem or perhaps two. At the end of the book is a list of questions for the reader, the questions reflecting the stories, such as, "Did you . . . Ever go out of your way to be friendly to a new girl or boy in your class or your street?" or "Is it . . . Hard or easy in the third grade? What do you like best at school? Do you like going on trips to interesting places with your class?" Realistic anecdotes, but Mrs. Taylor's usual easy writing style is hampered by the contrivance necessitated by the purpose of the series.

- R Treece, Henry. Horned Helmet; illus. by Charles Keeping. Criterion Books, 7-10 1963. 118p. \$3.

Set at the beginning of the eleventh century, a fast-paced story of an orphaned Icelandic boy who ships with a Viking crew. Beorn becomes the protegee and the protector of Starkad the baresark, staying with Starkad when the warrior is wounded and close to drowning. Beorn leaves to go to sea, returning when Starkad is an old man—he has cast away his sword and his horned helmet to comfort the old age of the man who is to him a father. The writing style has a virility and a simplicity that are eminently suitable for the historical period and the Viking theme; the story is unusually tight-knit and is completely convincing.

- M Voight, Virginia Frances. A Book for Abe; A Lincoln Birthday Story; illus. by 4-6 Jacqueline Tomes. Prentice-Hall, 1963. 59p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.84 net.

A story about Lincoln's sixteenth birthday; Dave Temple, four years younger, wanted desperately to give his dear friend Abe a present. Knowing how much Abe liked to read, Dave took a job in a store so that he could earn the seventy-five cents that was the price of the only book in the store. The slight story is embellished by some rather contrived incidents, such as Dave's acquisition of a puppy and his being pursued by a man who wanted a paper hidden in the previous book. The author has a nice, simple style but has over-extended the incident on which the story is based; all of Lincoln's virtues are brought into the story in a quite contrived way: his kindness to animals, his patriotism, his love of learning, his industry, his courage, his sense of humor, etcetera.

M Warburg, Sandol Stoddard. My Very Own Special Particular Private and Personal Cat; designed and illus. by Remy Charlip. Houghton, 1963. 47p.  
K-2 Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

A read-aloud book in which some conversation between a boy and a cat is illustrated by bold, simple drawings—black, white, and orange pictures and type on bright yellow pages. The boy addresses the cat masterfully, the cat evades the boy and explains its own independence; the boy thinks it over and sees the cat's viewpoint, then he establishes his own identity and accepts the cat on its own terms. There is a mild humor in the way the cat calmly does as it pleases, but the slight theme gains importance only if the text is quite skilfully read. It rambles in some passages in a half-lyric, half stream-of-nonsense fashion: "He said me o me and my o my and the sun is shinyfine up in the sky but I am the my of mine of mine oh I am the mine of me / oh I am the cat of cat of cat and you remember that."

Ad Werstein, Irving. Massacre at Sand Creek. Scribner, 1963. 186p. Trade ed.  
7-9 \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.12 net.

Although presented as historical fiction, this is a serious and detailed study of a massacre that took place in Colorado in 1864 and of the lingering and tragic consequences of that event. Mr. Werstein gives a candid picture of Chivington, the man whose desire for power and adulation led to the raid on the Cheyennes who had made peace with the white man and who were betrayed. The writing style is rather solid, and there are passages in the book that move slowly. A bibliography and an index are appended.

R Wier, Ester. The Loner; illus. by Christine Price. McKay, 1963. 153p. \$3.75.  
6-9

Orphaned, nameless, the boy is an itinerant crop-picker; picked up by a woman who herds sheep in Montana, the boy is given a name—David. David knows that his benefactor, Boss, is determined to kill the bear that killed her only son; he yearns to do this for Boss. The boy gradually acquires loyalties, skills, and goals: he learns to be a shepherd, he begins his education, he learns to love and trust his friends—and he kills the bear. The writing style is distinctive—slow and thoughtful; the story line and the characterization are restrained in treatment although both are in essence dramatic.

Ad Wyatt, Isabel. The Golden Stag; and Other Folk Tales from India; selected and  
5-6 retold by Isabel Wyatt; illus. by Anne Marie Jauss. McKay, 1962. 117p.  
\$3.25.

Sixteen folk tales chosen from the stories told by Buddha to his monks; the stories are better as a source for storytelling than they are read aloud, since the style of retelling tends to be abrupt. This is particularly noticeable at the opening words in several of the tales: "A King's sage died. This came to the ears of a man who was lame and lazy." or, "A hermit had his hut in the hills. Steps cut in the rock led up to his hut."

NR Wyndham, Lee. The Family at Seven Chimneys House; illus. by Jo Polseno. 5-6 Watts, 1963. 182p. \$2.95.

One city apartment held six Kendalls (Grandpa, Mother, and four children) and an accumulation of odd pets (hen, duck, pig, and parrot). When an oven fire exposed the ménage to the public, the family was evicted. They found a huge, old house in the country and acquired a goat, a dog, a cat, and a pony. And an eviction notice. The Senator next door offered them a permanent home and a job for Grandpa at the Animal Shelter. Pedestrian style, weak plot, stereotyped characters. Everybody is kind to animals, but this virtue is so heavily demonstrated that it seems unreal and loses impact.

Ad Wyndham, Lee. Thanksgiving; illus. by Hazel Hoecker. Garrard, 1963. 64p. 3-4 Trade ed. \$2.60; Library ed. \$1.95 net.

A useful book about the Thanksgiving holiday, describing the voyage of the Pilgrims, their first winter and their first harvest celebration. The book has an interesting section about similar holidays in other times and other lands: the Hebrew Sukkoth, the Greek and Roman harvest festivals, the customs of England and Holland, and the harvest rites of the American Indians. A final section of the text discusses the spread of the custom of a Thanksgiving celebration in this country, the variations in observance—the Pilgrims celebrated one Thanksgiving in July—until the day was declared a national and legal holiday, and the final setting of the date, in 1941, as the fourth Thursday in November. The writing style is a bit dry, and the illustrations are pedestrian, but the book gives a good deal of information, and gives it in a well-organized and succinct text. The text is simple enough to read to younger children and dignified enough to be used by slow older readers.

SpR Zolotow, Charlotte (Shapiro). The White Marble; pictures by Lilian Obligado. K-2 Abelard-Schuman, 1963. 40p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

An unusual picture book in mood and treatment; illustrated in cool drawings of white, blue, and black, the story describes two small children who experience a transient and lovely moment together. On a stifling summer night, John Henry and Pamela come to the park, brought by parents, to escape the city's heat. Silently, happily, the children run together over the grass; they sit captivated by the night and when they part John Henry gives Pamela his precious white marble, and the story ends as the small boy walks away. A fragile story that captures the charm of an evanescent moment, but one which will be less appreciated by children than by adults; only the unusually sensitive child will enjoy the gentle mood rather than finding the book static.



## *Reading for Librarians*

- American Library Association. A Basic Book Collection for High Schools, 7th ed. Eileen Noonan, comp. A.L.A. 1963. 184p. Paper. \$3.
- Cook, Margaret. New Library Key, 2d ed. Wilson, 1963. 184p. \$1.60. A guide to library use for students and other patrons.
- Criscuolo, Nicholas. "Teaching the Superior Reader." Education, November 1963.
- Crosby, Muriel, ed. Reading Ladders for Human Relations; 4th ed. American Council on Education, 1963. 242p. \$4. Paper, \$2.50. A.C.E., 1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C.
- Elementary English, November 1963. Entire issue: articles on folksong, poetry, children's preferences, Newbery evaluations by students, editorial criteria in manuscript selection, and articles on Rebecca Caudill and Richard Chase.
- Ellsworth, Ralph and Wagener, Herbert. The School Library. Educational Facilities Laboratories, 1963. 143p. 474 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.
- Endres, Raymond J. "Children and Poetry." Elementary English, December 1963.
- Fisher, Ho. "The Library: The Hub of Learning." The Clearing House, October 1963.
- Fuller, Muriel, ed. More Junior Authors. Wilson, 1963. 235p. \$5.
- Miller, Marilyn and Oliver, Margaret. I Want To Buy Books for the School Library But . . . ! Kansas, State Department of Public Instruction, 801 Harrison, Topeka, Kansas. An 11-page pamphlet of advice on selection, evaluation, budget, rebinding, ordering, etc.
- Soares, Anthony J. "Recreational Reading of Junior High Students." Elementary English, December 1963.
- Wallace, Sarah Leslie. So You Want To Be a Librarian. Harper, 1963. 190p. \$3.50. Library ed. \$3.27 net.
- Warth, Margaret. "A Student Library Club." The Clearing House, October 1963.
- Wilson, H. W., firm. Children's Catalog; 1963 supplement to the 10th ed., 1961. Edited by Rachel Shor and Estelle A. Fidell. Subscription basis.

